(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in affirmative what are the details thereof: and

(d) if reply to part (b) above be in negative what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Double Decker coaches at present are used on the Inter-city Expresses only. Considering the high cost of production, use of such coaches may not be financially viable besides being inconvenient for Suburban operation.

**Number of persons killed and injured on Suburban Railways, Bombay**

3693. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of persons who have been (i) killed and (ii) injured separately in 1990 till date on suburban section of Railways in Bombay suburban, while crossing railway lines, hit by poles while travelling, run over by trains while crossing lines etc.; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to reduce this number ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) 1514 persons were killed and 833 injured during 1990 (upto August).

(b) The following preventive steps have been taken by the Government : —

1. Announcements are made on Public Address system at the stations.
2. Posters and caution boards are displayed for warning public.
3. Raids are conducted to prevent roof top & foot board travel and tress-passing.
4. Foot-over bridges have been/are being provided at affected places.

**Replacement of Rake of the train 'Palace on Wheels'**

3694. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when the Project 'Palace on Wheels' was introduced and what was the number of passengers carried and the occupancy percentage for the last three years and upto 31st July. 1990;

(b) whether in 1989 it was decided to have a new rake Centrally airconditioned to be run as 'Palace on Wheels' for which the responsibility was announced by the Railways by sharing 60 per cent and 40 per cent by R.T.D.C, if so, what is the Ministry of Railway's share for the year 1990-91 and the amount paid so far to State Government;

(c) what is the present number of coaches including residential coaches, restaurant cars and service coaches in this train and what was the cost of renovation during 1989-90 and likely cost in 1990-91; and

(d) by when, decision on cost of sharing between the Central Government and State Government of Rajasthan regarding new rake is likely to be taken and what is the total investment expected in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) The 'Palace on Wheels' train was introduced in 1982. This train runs during winter season between October to March. The number of passengers carried and the occupancy percentage for the last three years are as under :

| *Year* | *No. of passengers carried* | *Occupancy percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| 1987-88 | 1747 | 75.1 |
| 1988-89 | 2212 | 93.1 |
| 1989-90 | 2282 | 95.06 |

(b) It has been decided to make a new airconditioned rake, which is to be commisioned in October, 1991. In 1990-91, the old rake will be run and the earnings will be shared in the ratio of 65 : 35 between Railways and RTDC. The ratio of share for the new AC rake has not yet been decided. The share of RTDC out of the net earnings from 1982-83 amounts to-Rs. 373 lakhs.